



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,512	02/07/2002	Cathleen M. Arsenault	57418US002	2889
32692	7590	02/27/2007	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			NICOLAS, FREDERICK C	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			3754	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/27/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/27/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

LegalUSDocketing@mmm.com
LegalDocketing@mmm.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/072,512	ARSENault ET AL.	
	Examiner Frederick C. Nicolas	Art Unit 3754	
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i> Period for Reply			
<p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 			
Status			
<p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 February 2007</u>.</p> <p>2a)<input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3)<input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</p>			
Disposition of Claims			
<p>4)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>2,4-13 and 16-24</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>2,4-13 and 16-24</u> is/are rejected.</p> <p>7)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8)<input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>			
Application Papers			
<p>9)<input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10)<input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)<input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b)<input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).</p> <p>11)<input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.</p>			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119			
<p>12)<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</p> <p>a)<input type="checkbox"/> All b)<input type="checkbox"/> Some * c)<input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <p>1.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p> <p>2.<input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.</p> <p>3.<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>			
<p>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p>			
Attachment(s)			
<p>1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</p> <p>2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</p> <p>3)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/7/2007</u>.</p>		<p>4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____</p> <p>5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>	

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 1-2, filed 2/7/2007, with respect to claims 2,4-13,16-24 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 2,4-13,16-24 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 2,4-7,12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sonntag 4,974,755.

Sonntag discloses a buffered dosing device for a liquid (col. 1, ll. 5-13), which comprises a main chamber (76) sized to hold more than one dose of the liquid, a dosing chamber (70) sized to hold one dose of the liquid, in fluidic communication with the main chamber, a shuttle (100) adapted for movement within the dosing chamber as seen in Figure 4c, the shuttle moving between a first position in which the liquid can flow between the main chamber and the dosing chamber and a second position in which the shuttle is depressed and seals the dosing chamber from the main chamber and permits the liquid to exit the dosing chamber (col. 5, ll. 38-68 onto col. 6, ll. 1-15), a third position intermediate the first and second positions, in which no liquid can flow between the

main chamber and the dosing chamber, and no liquid can escape from the dosing chamber (col. 6, ll. 16-68 onto col. 7, ll. 1-20).

4. Claims 2,4-5,7-10,13,16-18,20-22,24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liljeholm 3,666,150.

Liljeholm discloses a buffered dosing device for a liquid (col. 1, ll. 3-14), which comprises a main chamber (1) sized to hold more than one dose of the liquid, a dosing chamber (6) sized to hold one dose of the liquid, in fluidic communication with the main chamber, a shuttle (9) adapted for movement within the dosing chamber, the shuttle moving between a first position in which the liquid can flow between the main chamber and the dosing chamber as seen in Figure 1, a second position in which the shuttle is depressed and seals the dosing chamber from the main chamber and permits the liquid to exit the dosing chamber (col. 1, ll. 70-75), a third position intermediate the first and second positions, in which no liquid can flow between the main chamber and the dosing chamber, and no liquid can escape from the dosing chamber as seen in Figure 2, a spring (13), a cap (3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liljeholm 3,666,150 in view of Aperlo 3,738,543.

Liljeholm has taught all the features of the claimed invention except that the device includes a volumetric spacer within the dosing chamber. Aperlo teaches the use of a volumetric device 56 within a dosing chamber 11.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Aperlo's volumetric spacer within Liljeholm's dosing chamber as such, in order to allow the dispensing of a lesser, preselected amount of liquid, as taught by Aperlo (col. 6, ll. 29-32).

7. Claims 11,23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liljeholm 3,666,150 in view of Byrd et al. 3,865,281.

Liljeholm has taught all the features of the claimed invention except that the dosing device in combination with a carrier tray. Byrd et al. teach the use of providing a dosing device (200) in combination with a carrier tray (240).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the carrier tray of Byrd et al. onto Liljeholm's dispensing nozzle outlet as taught by Byrd et al. in (col. 7, ll. 56-67 onto col. 8, ll. 1-37), in order to provide a drip tray that receives and retains any spillage or leakage from the dosing device.

8. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonntag 4,974,755 in view of Sedam 4,703,870.

Sonntag has taught all the features of the claimed invention except that the main chamber is refillable and can be refilled by removing a cap. Sedam teaches the use of providing a refillable reservoir (16) having a cap (34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Sedam's reservoir onto Sonntag's inlet conduit (18), in order to provide a removable and refillable liquid reservoir for the main chamber, as taught by Sedam in (col. 2, ll. 6-10).

9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonntag 4,974,755 in view of Byrd et al. 3,865,281.

Sonntag has taught all the features of the claimed invention except that the dosing device in combination with a carrier tray. Byrd et al. teach the use of providing a dosing device (200) in combination with a carrier tray (240).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the carrier tray of Byrd et al. onto Sonntag's dispensing nozzle outlet as taught by Byrd et al. in (col. 7, ll. 56-67 onto col. 8, ll. 1-37), in order to provide a drip tray that receives and retains any spillage or leakage from the dosing device.

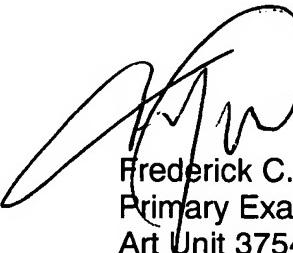
Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick C. Nicolas whose telephone number is (571)-272-4931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver, can be reached on 571-272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FN
February 18, 2007



2/18/07

Frederick C. Nicolas
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3754